

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01259 031118Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006584 031122Z /13

O R 031012Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 877
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1259

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, PLO, IS, LE, FR
SUBJ: ATTACKS ON UNIFIL NEAR TYRE MAY 2

REF: USUN 1771

1. UN SOURCE PROVIDED FOLLOWING DETAILS ON ENCOUNTERS INVOLVING
FRENCH FORCES AROUND TYRE EVENING MAY 2 SUPPLEMENTING INFO IN
REFTEL:

A. INITIAL AMBUSH INCIDENT OCCURRED NEAR FRENCH CHECKPOINT
1-4 WHICH IS ABOUT 1 KILOMETER EAST OF HAMMADIYAH ON TYRE-
ABBASIYAH ROAD.

B. ALL FRENCH CASUALTIES FROM TYRE BARRACKS SHELLING
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WERE TAKEN TO UNIFIL NAQOURA FILED HOSPITAL WHERE ONE DIED AND
SIX WOUNDED WERE TREATED.

C. FRENCH ARMORED CAR FOUND BURNED OUT AT 800 METERS
NORT OF TYRE. OF THREE FRENCH SOLDIER IN ARMORED
CAR ONLY ONE WOUNDED--ALL WERE LOCATED AT PLO HOSPITAL
IN TYRE MORNING MAY 3. AMBULANCE AND OCCUPANTS WERE BOTH

SAFELY RETURNED TO BASE.

D. COLONEL SALVAN OPERATED ON LATE MAY 2. IN PLO HOSPITAL IN BEIRUT--HE HAD TWO FRACTURED UPPER LEGS AND FRACTURED NOSE. BOTH ILMAC CHAIRMAN AND FRENCH EMBASSY REPS HAVE SEEN SALVAN. IT NOT KNOW WHETHER INJURIES CAUSED BY ROAD ACCIDENT OR GUNFIRE. PLO LIAISON OFFICER ACCOMPANYING HIM AT TIME OF INCIDENT SHOWED UP UNHARMED IN TYRE MORNING MAY 3. REGARDING OCCUPANTS OF JEEP ACCOMPANYING SALVAN, ONE FRENCH SOLDIER FOUND DEAD IN TYRE PLO HOSPITAL MORNING MAY 3 AND OTHER FRENCH SOLDIER MISSING.

3. AS OF MORNING MAY 3, UN HEADQUARTERS JERUSALEM RECORDS TWO FRENCH DEAD, NINE WOUNDED INCLUDING SALVAN, AND ONE MISSING.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ARAFAT, IN RESPONSE TO WALDHEIM MESSAGE, TOLD UN THAT FATAH NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THESE INCIDENTS. ARAFAT WAS SENDING PLO LT. COLONEL TO TYRE MORNING MAY 3 TO TRY TO RESTORE ORDER.

3. IN SEPARATE INCIDENT, A SENEGALESE SERGEANT WAS FOUND DEAD IN PLO HOSPITAL TYRE MORNING OF MAY 3. NINE OTHER SENEGALESE TROOPS WERE UNHARMED BUT ALSO IN HOSPITAL AWAITING "NEGOTIATION FOR THEIR RELEASE." THESE SENEGALESE WERE APPARENTLY EN ROUTE UNANNOUNCED
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FROM BEIRUT TO UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS WHEN THEY RAN INTO PALESTINIANS.

4. AS RESULT OF THESE INCIDENTS, SIILASVUO HAS CANCELLED TRIP TO SYRIA AND GONE TO NAQURA TODAY. GENERAL ERSKINE EXPECTED BACK ON EL AL FLIGHT ARRIVING THIS AFTERNOON. REPORTEDLY, SIILASVUO TALKED BY PHONE EVEINING MAY 2. TO WHALDHEIM AND UHRQUHART. THEY ARE CONSIDERING AT LEAST TWO OPTIONS ACCORDING TO SOURCE--
(1) PULLING UNIFIL UNITS OUT OF TYRE BARRACKS AND MANNING THE CHECKPOINTS MORE HEAVILY AROUND TYRE OF
(2) BEEFING UP TYRE WITH MORE TROOPS
SUCH AS BRINGING OVER 300 NEPALESE FROM EASTERN AREA AND/OR USING NIGERIANS WHO NOW EXPECTED TO BE ARRIVING MAY 10, 12 AND 14(SEE SEPTTEL).
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